



DATE: June 9, 2026

TO: Deans, Department Chairs, and Graduate Directors

THROUGH: Jennifer King Rice, Senior Vice President and Provost

FROM: Stephen Roth, Associate Provost and Dean

SUBJECT: Minimum Stipend Levels for Graduate Assistants and Fellows for FY 2027

Graduate Assistantship Stipends

Accounting for the GA tuition assistance benefit, the minimum Step I 9-month stipend is above the cost of attendance estimated by the Office of Student Financial Aid for AY26-27. The Graduate School encourages programs to offer stipends that substantially increase the likelihood of successful student recruitment and degree completion.

The new minimum stipends are given below. Please ensure that stipends in your unit comply with the following guidelines:

- A. GAs should be placed in the appropriate step: step I for master's students; step II for doctoral students not advanced to candidacy; step III for doctoral students advanced to candidacy.
B. The Graduate School sets minimum stipend levels for each step and appointment term (9, 9.5, and 12 months). Stipend levels have no caps at any step or term.
C. Teaching assistants must be offered 9.5- or 12-month assistantships, due to responsibilities before and after the last day of classes. Teaching assistants may not be offered 9-month assistantships.
D. All graduate assistants at a particular step and term appointed by a unit should receive the same stipend amount, regardless of their payment history, duties, or the graduate program (when different from the appointment unit).

FY2027 Minimum Graduate Assistant Stipends

Table with 7 columns: Step, 9 months (Full, Half), 9.5 months (Full, Half), 12 months (Full, Half). Rows for Step I, Step II, and Step III.

Graduate Fellowship Stipend

- A. The Graduate School sets minimum stipend levels for fellowships to qualify for tuition assistance. For details, see <https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowship-information/tuition-award-fellows>.
- B. Fellowship stipend levels have no caps. The Graduate School encourages programs to offer fellowship stipends that substantially increase the likelihood of successful student recruitment and degree completion.
- C. Guidelines for Dean's Fellowship increments apply.
- D. No work requirements can be attached to graduate fellowships.

FY2027 Minimum Graduate Fellowship Stipends*

9 months		12 months	
Full	Half	Full	Half
\$27,500	\$13,750	\$35,000	\$17,500

*Graduate fellowship stipend amounts will be updated for FY2028.

International Students on Assistantships or Fellowships

International students offered 9- or 9.5-month assistantships or fellowships must show proof of private financial resources for the remainder of the year or must be provided with additional support for that period. In either case, the total 12-month amount must equal or exceed the amount required by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to obtain an immigration visa. For further information, contact International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) at ext. 4-7740.

For questions or further information regarding assistantship or fellowship stipend guidelines, contact Jessica Duque, Director, Finance & Administration (x50814 / jduque@umd.edu) or grad-finance-fellowship@umd.edu.